

Examiner to reject claims 9, 11 and 13-17 were discussed.

The claims above mentioned were rejected based upon the Homme et al. U.S. patent no. 3,113,017 and the Worthington U.S. patent no. 4,445,931. The inventive processes as set forth in independent claims 9 and 13 relate to a method of producing titanium powder wherein titanium tetrachloride vapor is submerged in liquid sodium or other reducing metal (claim 9) or introduced into the interior of a flowing stream of a liquid reducing metal (claim 13).

It was explained to the Examiner that the Homme '017 patent shows a vessel 1 into which titanium tetrachloride is introduced as a vapor from heater 28 through inlet 30. The alkali metal is introduced through inlet pipes 23 and 24, so the liquid alkali metal is introduced into a vapor. This is exactly opposite to the claimed invention.

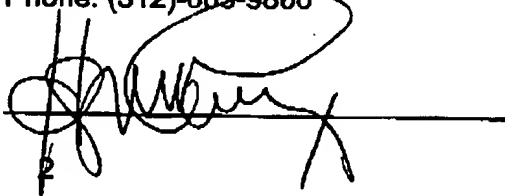
The Worthington '931 patent shows sodium introduced through an atomizing nozzle 4 into titanium tetrachloride vapor 6 in a container 3. Accordingly, Worthington is also opposite to the present invention because in Worthington, the liquid atomized sodium is introduced into titanium tetrachloride vapor.

Having shown that both of these cited references by the Examiner describe processes which are opposite to the present invention, as claimed, it is believed that the Examiner should allow rejected claims 9-17 and such allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION**Related Applications**

This is a file wrapper continuation application of our previously filed application Serial No. 09/264,577 filed March 8, 1999, which was a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/782,816, filed January 13, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,958,106 issued September 28, 1999, which was a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/691,423, filed August 2, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,779,761 issued July 14, 1998, which was a file wrapper continuation of Serial No. 08/283,358, filed August 1, 1994, now abandoned -- the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

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CLEAN CORRECTED VERSIONRelated Applications

App/60
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